

Henderson Park – How Times Change and not for the better

Henderson Park, which was once the floral pride of the town and enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, now appears to be reduced to the level of pasture land. What should be a beautiful area and one of our community's focal points is, at the time this picture was taken (11th May), no more than an embarrassment. Scottish Borders Council has made it clear that due to severe financial constraints, apart from grass cutting, it will not be planting and maintaining parks and gardens not just in Coldstream but in all Border towns. The hope is that local groups and initiatives will take over the planting and maintenance of these areas but, as yet in Coldstream, this has not happened. Our excellent Gateway Association (of which the Community News is part) is already at full stretch planting and maintaining the multitude of flower containers and hanging baskets all over the town and so adding Henderson Park to its remit is simply impossible.

What are your thoughts? Have you any ideas? The CCN would be interested to hear from you.



Gateway Association (Coldstream in Bloom)

Town Flower Displays

To all readers, due to these uncertain times I hope you are all keeping safe and in good health. When normal times return we look forward to seeing you at the Saturday coffee mornings.

Throughout the town you may have noticed that the winter flower displays are now coming to the end of the season. I hope you will agree that they have looked magnificent and have cheered the town up with their colour. Thanks to Harry and Alan who have continued to water and feed them when we had dry spells. Soon the winter flowers will be removed and added to the compost heap.

The new season summer plants arrive in the first week of June and with a group of volunteers the two boat displays along with the 130+ hanging baskets, numerous three tier planters and all of the tubs and troughs throughout the town will have new young plants. So, in a short period of time, the town will be in full bloom. This will be done following the government's guidelines on social distancing.

We as a group haven't been sitting back and doing nothing throughout the winter months. The Gateway Association has applied for various grants and, if successful, this will assist us in purchasing a new environmentally friendly Electric watering buggy which will enable us to water the plants throughout the summer and Autumn months. Below is a possible choice of buggy Coldstream may have soon.

Alan Vassallo, Chairperson



ANSWERS TO QUIZZES ON PAGES 7 & 10

1 Langholm	13 Dalwhinnie	1 Benneccourt	11 Henderson Park
2 Falkirk	14 John O'Groats	Crescent	12 Jacobs Well
3 Harris	15 Culloden	2 Besom Inn	13 Kenneth Palmer
4 Fort Augustus	16 Avonbridge	3 Bookie Lane	14 Men's Shed
5 Paisley	17 Kinloss	4 Calico House	15 Nuns Walk
6 Stirling	18 Montrose	5 Coffee	16 River Tweed
7 Hawick	19 East Kilbride	Mornings	17 Sir Alec
8 Coldstream	20 Dumfries	6 Community	Douglas-Home
9 Pitlochry	21 Mull	Centre	18 Skin Deep
10 Duns	22 Peebles	7 Duke Street	19 Trotters
11 Kincairdine	23 Coatbridge	8 Gowana	20 Victoria Lodge
12 Galashiels	24 Elgin	9 Great Wall	10 Guards Road

Walking In & Around Coldstream During the Covid-19 Lockdown

Taking exercise during the current "Coronavirus lockdown" is being actively encouraged by both UK and Scottish Governments and thankfully most of the many walks in and around Coldstream continue to be accessible to walkers/ramblers. It's good that there are still many choices available to those seeking their daily (or twice daily) exercise.

The Hirsal Estate is currently closed temporarily (at the time of writing) to all visitors due to the Covid-19 outbreak. A spokesman for The Hirsal told the CCN that *"The decision to close the Hirsal was not taken lightly but taken in accordance with the Government's lock-down rules to try and prevent the spread of Covid-19, save lives*



and to avoid overburdening the NHS. On Thursday 7th May the Scottish Government took the decision to maintain the lock-down in Scotland for a further 3 weeks and in view of that decision the Hirsal will remain closed until, at least, the 28th May 2020 when the position will be reviewed. I know this is not what people will want to hear; but the Government's decision, due to the seriousness of the situation, to maintain the lock-down for a further period has given us no choice."



Walking on established paths over The Lees, Lennel Estate and land farmed by Coldstream Mains seems to be continuing more or less unrestricted although farmer Colin McGregor has politely requested that people do not walk through the farm steading. However, it's not always possible to walk where you would like to walk. Unconnected to Covid-19 issue, part of a path between Coldstream and Lennel Bank has been blocked off by the owner due to "acts of theft and criminal damage". Also, a further walk on the English side of the Tweed which has been walked and enjoyed by Coldstream and Cornhill residents for many years, is now forbidden to walkers. These landowners and their signs seem to cite vandalism and irresponsible behaviour as reasons for denial of public access and, if this is the case, the actions of a tiny minority appear to have negatively affected the vast majority of Coldstream walkers who are undoubtedly mature, careful and law-abiding citizens.

Note: The "right /freedom to roam" which was enshrined in Scots Law following the Land Reform Act of 2003 gives the public the right of access to most (but not all) land and inland water in Scotland provided that the right is exercised responsibly. There is no equivalent "freedom to roam" legislation in England.



NOTICE

THIS UNOFFICIAL PATH IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THIS IS DUE TO ACTS OF THEFT AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE COMMITTED ON THIS LAND. THE MATTER HAS BEEN REPORTED TO POLICE SCOTLAND AND BORDERS COUNCIL HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE CLOSURE.

CCTV FOOTAGE OF SOMEONE UNLAWFULLY ERECTING NOTICES ON MY LAND HAS ALSO BEEN PASSED TO POLICE SCOTLAND.

THE OWNER

Lockdown Shared

What a strange time this is! At the time of writing we are now in week 8 of Lockdown, and I am starting to hear rumblings – and some grumbings – around me about being bored, going “stir crazy”, running out of things to do etc. etc.

So why am I feeling just a little bit guilty, and dare I put into print, that I am actually quite enjoying what is a very unusual experience for me.....having TIME, quality time at that! Time to do things that I usually have to put on the shelf as I am away from home so often on business.

Time to catch up with friends via social media, which I don't usually indulge in, to any great extent. In one case via Facebook, I found an old friend and discovered that since I last was in touch with her, she has become an amazing photographer and writes wonderful poetry.

Time to indulge via Zoom, in a hysterical family quiz afternoon which had over 30 members of my family in Scotland, England, France, Kuala Lumpur & Texas in stitches for over 3 hours. Some wine was also consumed! 🍷

Time to play my piano, cook “properly” using locally bought fresh produce, read books, normally only a holiday experience, and time simply to breathe and enjoy being still for a while.

Yes, I know I am one of the lucky ones, as yet unaffected by this horrid virus, and being a very positive sort of person I do always like to look for the good in even the bad things that come my way.

I have many funny stories from the lockdown experience and am sure that lots of you out there will have too.

Many of you will also have had new experiences because of the lockdown, e.g. by home schooling your children, having time to spend with them which would normally not be possible because of “work”. What have **they** taught **you** even!

What new talents have you found in yourself, or have you at last had time to take up that hobby you have wanted to try for so long?

Have you and your neighbours, socially distancing of course, done something crazy on “Clap Nights”?

Why not share your experiences with CCN and in the Autumn Edition we will print an item dedicated to your “Tales from the Toon – Locked Doon”

Joy Thomson (former Associate Editor of Coldstream Community News)

THE BIRDS HAVE FLOWN

.....We can't believe that it has been 6 months since our Last Flight Ladies Charity Dinner. The time seems to go so quickly these days, but then perhaps that's an age thing! We had decided after the Seabirds Dinner in April 2018 that it would be our last. We felt we were getting too old, well some of us, and as Linda had moved out of the area, it was just not logistically possible.

Then we lost Gerald Tait to MND. Susan and her family requested that we did just one more dinner in Gerald's memory. He was such a fabulous support to us through all of the 8 dinners we had done that it didn't take long for the decision to be made that we would. Who could forget his jokes and the banter between him and the guests? So, The Last Flight was born.

We decided along with the Tait Family that we would support the My Name's Doddie Foundation and the Macmillan Centre at the BGH. The Foundation because the research into MDH is so important to try and find a cure for this awful disease and to support families of people who are suffering, both emotionally and financially. Our other charity The Macmillan Centre cares and looks after so many Border Families who have members who are going through treatment for terminal illnesses and need special care. Whether it's help with finances, transport to other cancer centres, discussions about treatment or to help clarify the bewildering terminology, or just being there either in person or on the end of the phone. We know that they have helped Susan and her family and so many local families so we wanted to give our support to them by raising funds.



We couldn't believe that all of the tickets were sold in 20 minutes, so on 12th October 2019 the Tweed Room at the Community Centre was decorated by our army of helpers, many of whom had helped at every dinner we had done, a special mention here must go to David Shepherd who made the wall art, so at 6.30 140 ladies all sat down to a beautiful meal prepared and cooked by Carole and Michael Steel (now of Besom fame!) Carole and Michael gave their time freely which we were really grateful for as we know how busy they were.

The Ex Coldstreamers performed their usual waiting duties. They have been such supporters of all our dinners, turning out in numbers. All our usual wine waiters were on duty again and we knew that it was a bitter sweet evening for them without Gerald but they wanted to be there for him.

So many local businesses generously donated prizes for the auction and Sally's legendary Raffle. We counted 10 auction lots and over 40 raffle baskets all themed and beautifully wrapped by Sally.

Ian Landles and Bobby Hanlon came and entertained us all, Ian with much hilarity and he paid a lovely tribute to Gerald. Bobby sang beautifully and there wasn't a dry eye in the house when he sang Gerald's favourite songs in memory of his friend.

A great evening was had by all and the fabulous sum of £7629.07 was raised which we have divided equally between the two charities.

This was our 8th dinner and the fabulous sum of £53,145.88 has been raised over the last 10 years.

We couldn't have done it without you....so THANK YOU COLDSTREAM. We will miss you all

Carole Anderson, Sally Campbell, Susan Tait, Linda Holmes, Karen McKinlay

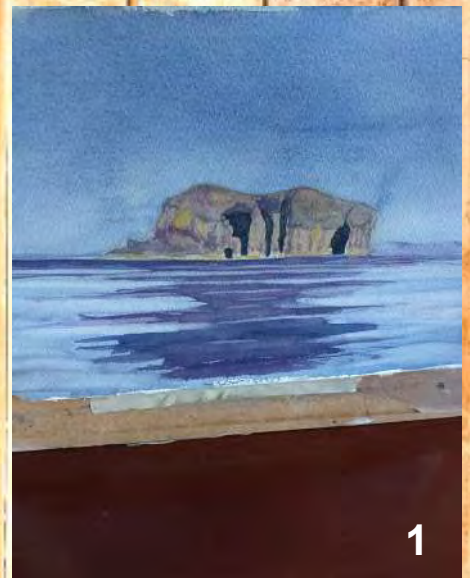
Coldstream Art Group

Digital Exhibition

Coldstream Art Group members have been keeping busy painting during the Coronavirus lockdown, and a selection of some of the paintings we have produced during this time is shown here.

We have called this a Digital Exhibition (never been done by us before) as our usual Civic Week Art Exhibition will unfortunately not take place this year. We look forward to resuming our Monday afternoon art sessions once restrictions are lifted, and if any-one would like to join us you will be made very welcome.

Please contact Gordon Thompson on 01890 882455 or agmthompson@btinternet.com for further information. For picture titles see page 9.





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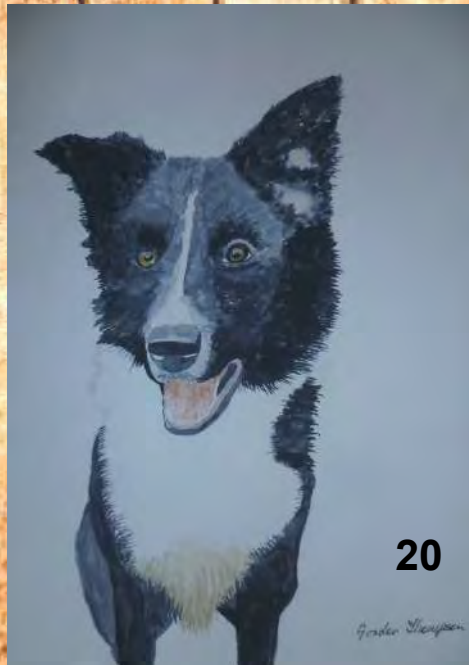




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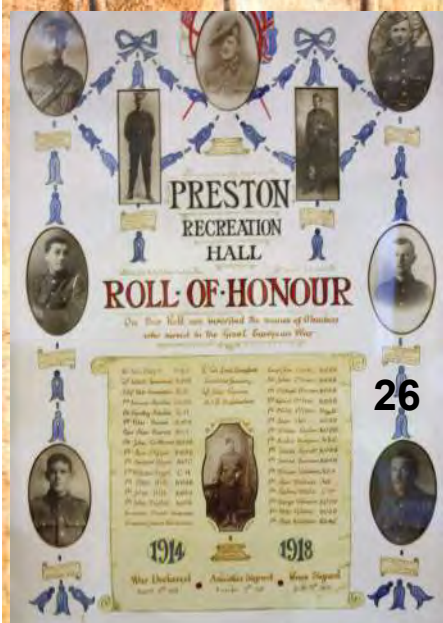
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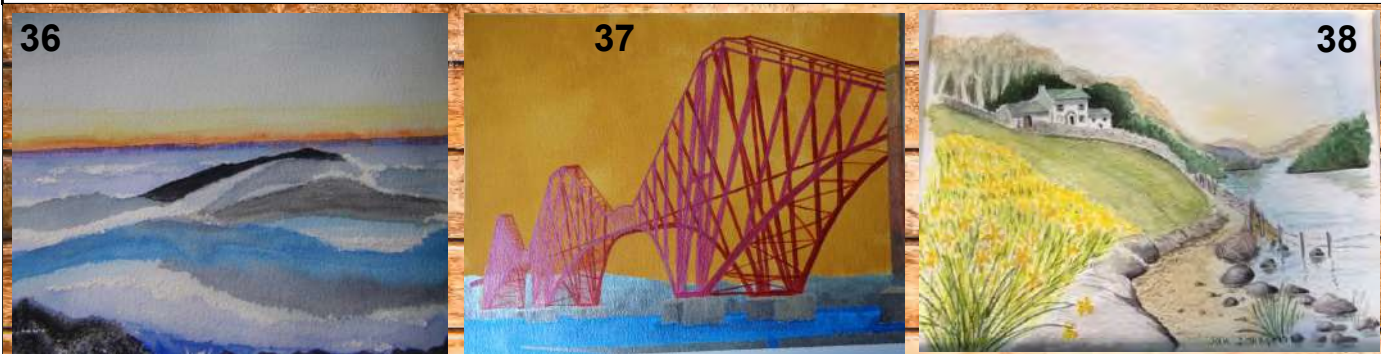
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St. Mary's and the Berwickshire Group of Episcopal Churches

Well, this state of lock down has certainly changed the way we do almost everything, from keeping in touch to shopping to even the way we do church.

Mid-March seems like a life-time away, yet it is only 6 weeks ago (as I write) that we were all told that the Covid-19 outbreak was going to change everything – and it has, along with adding such terms as 'lock-down' and 'social-distancing' to our vocabulary.

And now, some 6 weeks in, we're all feeling the effects of this, from the stress of getting shopping, or finding someone to pick up a prescription to a deep sense of isolation, of feeling alone, or the anxiety over not being able to see loved ones.

As the congregation at St. Mary's and along with the other churches in the Berwickshire Group - Christ Church, Duns and St. Ebba's, Eyemouth - we, like many others, found a new home on 'Zoom'.



Our first service was on the 22nd March where 23 people joined us and where we had some fun trying to work out how to deal with things like time-lag caused by band-width, this was particularly interesting when it came to trying to all sing together – I'll leave that to your imagination. However, it's been a real joy to see those joining with us grow steadily toward 40 as together we gather around one of the central symbols of the Christian faith – bread and wine. And with the initial 'bumps' all-but ironed out, it's great that people join in with sharing readings and leading prayers.

These Sunday services have proved to be a real life-saver for many as we are able to catch up and chat and find a sense of community in these strange times. We've also been having Morning Prayer at 10:00am and Evening Prayer at 6:00pm Mon to Sat, these have become little catch up and chat times for those who come along.

If you would like to join us and find out for yourselves you would be more than welcome. To find out more go to: www.christchurchduns.org or e-mail me at: rector_bt@hotmail.com, or phone: 01361 884326. May God bless you and may you stay safe, from all at St. Mary's and the Berwickshire Group of Scottish Episcopal Churches.

Rev. Chris Jones

BELOW ARE THE COFFEE MORNING DATES AS BOOKED IN THE TOWN DIARY BUT THEY WILL OBVIOUSLY ONLY GO AHEAD IF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED



30 May	Parish Church Guild	PCH
06 June	Ex-Coldstreamers' Association	BL
13 June	Coldstream Flower Show	BL
20 June	Coldstream Football Club	BL
27 June	Honour Our Troops	BL
04 July	Coldstream Bowling Club	BL
11 July	Coldstream Gateway Association	BL
18 July	Coldstream British Legion	BL
25 July	BAVS Charity Shop	BL
01 Aug	Coldstream Pipe Band	BL

08 Aug	Presenting Coldstream	CC
11 Aug	Riding for the Disabled	CT
22 Aug	Parish Church Guild	PCH
29 Aug	RBSL Women's Section	BL
05 Sept	Coldstream Community Theatre	BL

BL - British Legion Club CC - Community Centre
CT - Clock Tower PCH - Parish Church Hall

The Town Diary is held in Streamers Sandwich Bar. Please fill in full details of your coffee morning or other event. Any queries regarding the Diary should go to Elspeth Bell on (01890) 882211. Thank you.